Editors of the New Republic—"A Journal of Opinion"

Sirs:—The brief you hold for public opinion makes me tired. Public opinion be hanged, I say—your opinion, my opinion, everybody's opinion. What we need now is FORCE; force in terms of men; force and the boiling blood that makes righteous force invincible.

When your house is burning down you don't sit down and think it over, do you? The hour has passed for thinking. Opinion and reflection and discussion are peace-time luxuries. You've got to fight the devil with his own weapons, or you compromise with the devil. This country is out for VICTORY—and victory over a German means a knock-out.

Bitter Ender.

"To Bitter Ender":—

VICTORY—all we are and hope to be is bound up in that word. Attila might have written your letter—or the Kaiser. Your conception of victory is theirs. It is dark with dust of the ages. Trivial and antiquated and unimportant, it could go unchallenged if it were not also just now a little dangerous. Too many good citizens have seized upon it as the last word in victory, and if enough more shall be persuaded to join them, then who shall measure the disaster to a hopeful world? Your conception of victory must go, because if it stands Germany, even when we have defeated her, would be our conqueror.

Any different conception is to you but a covert bid for a premature peace. You are entangled in the delusion that those who disagree with you are somehow against the use of force. Nobody is trying to find a substitute for force. The point is to use our force—every ounce we have, and every kind we have—so as to make sure that what we get by it is what we are after. Bitter Ender, you call yourself—you are no Bitter Ender at all. For you fight, not for an end, but for a finish. You are not even a dweller in Half-way House. For you have not compromised with the devil, you

THE *Measure of* VICTORY

a reflection of the liberal point of view with respect to the war for the consideration *of*

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in the conviction that a united public opinion is a primary condition of victory and that such a state of opinion rests on common understanding of common aims

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